



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *107th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2002

Senate

HELEN VINCENT, IN MEMORIAM

MR. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a few moments today to reflect on the life of a remarkable Delawarean, Helen Vincent, upon her passing at the age of eighty-two. Helen was a good friend and a woman who demonstrated tremendous courage and integrity. She was a woman with a kind heart, diverse interests, great abilities and boundless energy. In the way she lived her own life, Helen reminded each of us how good we can be.

In her thirty years in Newark, Delaware Helen became a well-known political and civic activist who championed ethics and justice. She believed in the democratic process and the value of honesty and integrity. A staunch ally, she was a major figure in our successful efforts to clean up New Castle County politics. We are a better state and a stronger Democratic Party because of her tireless efforts to infuse ethics into politics and her refusal to be deterred.

Helen taught us all how to act responsibly, with vision and determination. She understood the inherent danger that comes from the silence of good people. With her courage, she made it just a bit easier for the rest of us to stand up and make our voices heard.

Like Helen, Lou Gehrig's Disease works across boundaries- without regard to racial, ethnic or economic barriers. But while the

disease seeks to weaken the body, it proved only to bolster Helen's spirit and resolve. In life, and in facing death, Helen Vincent exemplified grace and grit.

In the face of adversity, Helen seemed to always prevail. Even now, as we reflect on her life, she seems somehow to have triumphed again.

Helen's legacy will live on in the lives of those she helped to shape, in the halls of the institutions she served, and in the hearts of those of us who were lucky enough to call her their friend. She believed that we could all do a bit better, and inspired us to do just that.

So, I rise today to commemorate Helen, to celebrate her life, and to offer her family our support. Helen truly embodied the best of Delaware. She will be sorely missed by all Delawareans who cherish honesty and integrity and who are committed to playing by the rules.